IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of)
)
MÖCK et al.) Group Art Unit: 1771
)
Serial No. 09/714,191) Examiner: ROCHE, LEANNA M.
)
Filed: November 17, 2000)
)
For: SANDWICH PANEL)

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Honorable Commissioner of
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Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT AND RCE UNDER 37 CFR 1.114

In response to the Office action of February 25, 2003, please enter the following amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 5-6, 9-10 and 15.

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (currently amended) A sandwich panel, comprising:

(A) a core layer of polypropylene particle ~~form,~~ foam based on foam particles with a particle size in the range from 2 to 8 mm and a bulk density in the range from 10 to 100 g/l between

(B) ~~at least~~ two cover layers of fiber-reinforced polypropylene, each of said cover layers having a face opposite the core layer; and

(C) optionally, ~~one or more~~ a decorative ~~layers~~ layer on each of the faces,

wherein the core layer ~~is sandwiched between said cover layers and~~ A comprises from 1 to ~~30%~~ 10% by weight of recyclate particles of components A, B and optionally C having an average particle size of from 5 to 10 mm ~~;~~

~~and wherein, when said decorative layers are present, the foam core and cover layers are sandwiched between said decorative layers~~.

2. (original) A sandwich panel as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cover layers B include from 10 to 60% by weight of glass, natural or polymeric fibers in the form of mats, nonwoven scrims, wovens or short fibers.

3. (original) A sandwich panel as claimed in claim 2, wherein the cover layers include from 20 to 50% by weight of glass mats.

4. (currently amended) A sandwich panel as claimed in claim 1, wherein the decorative panel comprises a fiber web, a polymeric film ~~, a laminated~~ or a foam film ~~or unlaminated foam~~.

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (previously added) The sandwich panel as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polypropylene of the particle foam in the core layer is selected from the group consisting of a polypropylene homopolymer, a copolymer of polypropylene and 0.5 to 15% by weight of ethene, a copolymer of polypropylene and 0.5 to 15% by weight of 1-butene, and a copolymer of polypropylene and from 0.5 to 15% by weight of ethene and 1-butene.

8. (previously added) The sandwich panel as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polypropylene of the particle foam of the core layer has a crystallite melting point in the range of 120° to 170°C.

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (previously added) The sandwich panel as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polypropylene in the cover layers is selected from the group consisting of a polypropylene homopolymer, a graft copolymer of polypropylene and maleic anhydride, a graft copolymer of polypropylene and acrylic acid, a copolymer of polypropylene and maleic anhydride, and a copolymer of polypropylene and acrylic acid.

12. (currently amended) The sandwich panel as claimed in claim 1, wherein the decorative layers comprise a fiber web, wherein said fiber web comprises ~~at least one selected from the group consisting of~~ a polyester ~~,~~ or polyamide, polymeric film ~~,~~ or a foam film ~~, and a foam film~~ optionally laminated with a film.

13. (previously added) The sandwich panel as claimed in claim 1, wherein the core layer comprises from 1 to 20% by weight of said recyclate particles.

14. (previously added) The sandwich panel as claimed in claim 1, wherein the core layer comprises from 2 to 10% by weight of said recyclate particles.

15. (canceled)

16. (previously added) The sandwich panel as claimed in claim 1, wherein the recyclate particles have an average particle size of from 6 to 8 mm.

17. (previously added) The sandwich panel as claimed in claim 1, wherein the core layer is 3 to 20 mm thick.

18. (previously added) The sandwich panel as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of the cover layers is 0.5 to 2 mm thick.

19. (previously added) The sandwich panel as claimed in claim 1, wherein the decorative layers are 1 to 5 mm thick.

20. (previously added) The sandwich panel as claimed in claim 1, wherein the decorative layers are 1 to 3 mm thick.

21. (currently amended) The sandwich panel as claimed in claim 1, wherein the core layer is obtained by welding 1 to ~~20%~~ 10% by weight of the ~~recylate~~ recyclate particles having an average particle size of from 5 to 10 mm with ~~80~~ 90 to 99% by weight of polypropylene foam particles.

22. (previously added) The sandwich panel as claimed in claim 1, wherein the core layer is 3 to 20 mm thick and each of the cover layers is 0.5 to 2 mm thick.

23. (previously added) The sandwich panel as claimed in claim 1, wherein the decorative layers each comprise a fiber web foam film from 1 to 5 mm thick.

24. (previously added) The sandwich panel as claimed in claim 1, wherein the

decorative layers each comprise a fiber web or a foam film from 1 to 3 mm thick.

25. (previously added) A motor vehicle part selected from the group consisting of truck floor, parcel shelf and side door trim, comprising the sandwich panel as claimed in claim 1.